



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

2856
4/Election/a
Step 1e
5-19-03

First Named
Inventor : Matthew M. Johnston

Appln. No.: 09/917,363

Filed : July 27, 2001

For : TECHNIQUE FOR MEASURING SMALL
DISTANCES BETWEEN, AND FOR
MEASURING THE FLATNESS OF,
ELECTRICALLY CONDUCTIVE
SURFACES

Group Art Unit: 2856

Examiner: Charles D.
Garber

Docket No.: S01.12-0734

AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING
SENT BY U.S. MAIL, FIRST CLASS, TO THE
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450,
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, THIS

8th DAY OF MAY, 2003

A. Rego

PATENT ATTORNEY

Sir:

This Amendment is in response to the Restriction
Requirement dated April 8, 2003. Please amend the above-
identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-8 and 20.

Please add new claims 21-28 as follows:

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the first surface is
a surface of a disc employed in a disc drive.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the first and second
surfaces are substantially flat surfaces that are disposed
substantially parallel to each other, wherein the nominal shape
is a flat surface, wherein the force gauge measures the
attractive force between the first and second surfaces to obtain
an attractive force value, and wherein the nominal force value is

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